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The maps are crude, behind the times. One would say they had not Sir John Murray's supervision. That of ocean depths is inexpressive and inaccurate. The temperature and density charts are highly and unnecessarily generalized, which is a pity in a book of such rare value. Its small scale is no reason for putting the equatorial Romanche Deep a degree too far west, nor the Porto Rico Deep 200 miles too far north. The West African Basin is not brought out even so far as an accurate drawing of the 2000 fathom line would allow, with a better expression of the Walfish Ridge of Supan, which is here hardly hinted at. The text, too, has no word of the contrast of bottom temperature in the East and West Atlantic Basins that result from this ridge.

MARK JEFFERSON.

Der Ozean. Eine Einführung in die allgemeine Meereskunde. Von O. Krümmel. 2nd ed. viii and 285 pp. Maps, ills., index. G. Freytag, Leipzig, 1902. 7½ x 5½.

"Der Ozean" is the great oceanographer's contribution to the series of concise compendiums entitled "Das Wissen der Gegenwart." It is compact in plan and includes as its major topics the distribution and articulation of the oceans, the nature of the sea-floor, the composition and temperatures of the sea-water, and the forms of water in motion. In the earlier chapters much space is devoted to the methods employed by the oceanographer in his research. The final chapter is a masterly treatment of waves, tides, and currents. The little volume is packed full of examples drawn from a great range of sources. Krümmel seems to be able to quote any reference from the Odyssey down to date. It is to be regretted that the publishers have economized on the cuts, which are decidedly ill assorted.

CARL O. SAUER.

METEOROLOGY AND CLIMATOLOGY

The Atmosphere. By A. J. Berry. Cambridge Manuals of Science and Literature. 146 pp. Ills., index. University Press, Cambridge; G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1913. 40 cents. 6½ x 5.

The title of this book is somewhat misleading. "The Gases of the Atmosphere" would seem to be better. Beginning with a brief history of the first experiments, the author traces the rise and fall of the principal theories concerning the atmosphere. This is followed by a short discussion of the principal constituents on the basis of our modern knowledge. The last half of the book is devoted to the following topics:

The escape of gases from planetary atmospheres according to the kinetic theory: liquid air; the inert gases in the atmosphere; the radioactivity of the atmosphere; the probable composition of the atmosphere in early geological time.

At times explanations are very simple and lucid and at times they lose themselves in chemical formulæ or mathematical physics. In general the treatise is interesting. Perhaps its chief value lies in the descriptions of the principal experiments that have been employed for years past to determine the nature of the atmosphere and its composition.

EUGENE VAN CLEEF.

The Place of Climatology in Medicine. Being the Samuel Hyde Memorial Lectures read before the Section of Balneology and Climatology of the Royal Society of Medicine, May 20 and 21, 1913. By William Gordon. 62 pp. H. K. Lewis, London, 1913. 9 x 5½.

The Influence of Strong, Prevalent, Rain-Bearing Winds on the Prevalence of Phthisis. By William Gordon. 108 pp. Maps, index. H. K. Lewis, London, 1910. 9 x 6.

Dr. Gordon makes a strong plea for the recognition of climatology in the medical curriculum in his "Samuel Hyde Memorial Lectures," which were delivered before the Section of Balneology and Climatology of the Royal Society of Medicine in May, 1913. He points out the seriousness of the present neglect

of this branch of teaching, and emphasizes the importance of what he calls "a new principle in climatological investigation, *viz.*, the principle of approximate isolation of influences." The recognition of the importance of this "new principle" as a working basis is certainly not new, but its application in climatological research has not, as Dr. Gordon observes, been given adequate attention. A further point upon which our author lays emphasis is his view that there is no valid evidence that altitude *per se* affects the prevalence of phthisis.

Dr. Gordon's own opinion in regard to phthisis is that the prevalence of that disease is influenced by strong prevalent rain-bearing winds. This thesis he has set forth, with great care, in his second volume (published in 1910), in which he presents the evidence collected during ten years. It must suffice here to say that he has brought together a large amount of statistical evidence in support of his view which, if accepted to any degree, will mean, as he says, that "much of the climatology of phthisis will have to be reconstructed."

R. DEC. WARD.

Our Own Weather. A Simple Account of Its Curious Forms, Its Wide Travels and Its Notable Effects. By Edwin C. Martin. 281 pp. Ills., index. Harper & Brothers, New York & London, 1913. \$1.25. 7½ x 5.

"The weather itself is but an activity. The air of the atmosphere, like the water of the sea, and, indeed, like all nature, including man, is forever seeking ease and never quite finding it. The weather is simply the air's business." Thus does the author of this pleasing volume open his first chapter. He obviously writes because of pure love of the subject. In an easy, colloquial, vivid, personal way the ordinary facts of our weather controls and weather types are described, and in a broad, general way they are also explained. There is nothing of the text-book here. It is all free and easy and unconstrained. It is refreshingly different. One may readily pardon the occasional inaccuracies in view of the merits of the book, which is so well up to date that it includes an account of the tornadoes and floods of March, 1913. We think that the effort to make the descriptions vivid and catchy is frequently overdone. For example, on page 62 we read: "Usually in the formation of a trough a center of low pressure up about the Great Lakes has entered into a kind of trust with one down in the neighborhood of the Gulf, and the combination holds ground in a rather dull, obstructive way, northeast and southwest, over the lower Mississippi and Ohio valleys, a business without, for the moment, any real head." Nor do we like "the body that scatters the air around and makes fair weather" (title to chapter VII). Yet we have no hesitation in saying that Mr. Martin's book may well be read by those who wish to become acquainted with the facts of "our own weather," and with their explanations. The cloud views are reproduced, in half-tones, from the colored Hydrographic Office cloud types, without, so far as we have discovered, any indication of the source from which they were taken. The colored views are so much better than Mr. Martin's and are so readily obtainable that some reference to them should have been made. But the author has strictly avoided references, so he is, at any rate, consistent.

R. DEC. WARD.

ANTHROPOGEOGRAPHY

Das Meer als Quelle der Völkergrösse. Eine politisch-geographische Studie. Von F. Ratzel. 2. verbesserte Auflage besorgt von H. Helmolt. iv and 91 pp. R. Oldenbourg, München, 1911. Mk. 1.80. 9 x 6.

This is the second edition of Ratzel's endorsement of strong naval armaments. The new edition has been brought down to date by Hans Helmolt, who has incorporated his revisions in Ratzel's text.

Writing at a time when Germany was undecided as to her naval policy, the author has marshaled his knowledge of geographical influences in the past to insist upon the necessity of vigorous maritime expansion. Although this was the main purpose, Ratzel has implied rather than expressed his Pan-Germanic leanings. In a series of essays of great literary charm, he has restated his familiar principles of the cosmopolitanism of maritime nations. He sees those